

World Cup 2010 News Summary

June 13-14, 2010

A selection of World Cup 2010 highlights from the media

- RSA: Police Clash With 'Hundreds' of Stewards at Durban Stadium Over Wages
- Police Pass First 'Major' Security Test With Peaceful US, Argentina Games
- Police Chief Says No 'Tangible Evidence' of Xenophobic Violence After World Cup
- Expert Commends 'Extremely Impressive' Security Measures
- Durban Trains Guides To Patrol Beaches for Criminals, Traffickers
- Budget Backpacking Lodges Fully Booked as Fans Look for Cheaper Options
- Journalists Unharmed After 'Emergency Landing' at Lanseria Airport
- Transport Problems Affecting Attendance
- South Africans Say World Cup 'Killing' Local Businesses
- Video Shows Police Dispersing Stadium Workers in Durban

RSA: Police Clash With 'Hundreds' of Stewards at Durban Stadium Over Wages -- Eyewitness News reported on 14 June that armed riot police clashed with hundreds of security stewards at Durban's Moses Mabhida Stadium on 13 June. The stewards reportedly became angry "when they were paid much less than they were apparently promised." Around 200 security stewards "stormed" the stadium "hours after the match between Germany and Australia had ended and started demanding they be paid their R1500" [rand]. According to police spokesman Phindile Radebe, the stewards became aggressive and started "throwing objects at management. Police intervened and managed to take them out of the stadium." Radebe confirmed reports that teargas was used to disperse the protesters.

Police Pass First 'Major' Security Test With Peaceful US, Argentina Games -- AFP on 12 June reported that the police passed their "first major security test" of the World Cup as potential flashpoint matches involving England-US and Nigeria-Argentina went off "peacefully." Both matches involved "major security operations" with the Argentina-Nigeria match taking place next to a Johannesburg neighborhood notorious for gangland crime and with a large expatriate Nigerian community. As large numbers of reinforcements, including police motorbike squads, patrolled the streets around Ellis Park, helicopters flew overhead. In Rustenburg, security was "even tighter" as US Vice President Joe Biden attended the game. Fans had to queue for up to an hour to get past metal detectors and have their bags searched as police helicopters flew overhead. Large numbers of local and national police patrolled the streets ahead of a match that had a high terror risk rating, along with sniffer dogs and teams who swept the stadium for bombs.

Police Chief Says No 'Tangible Evidence' of Xenophobic Violence After World Cup -- The Sunday Times Online reported on 13 June that Police commissioner Bheki Cele said there is no "tangible evidence" to suggest that there will be an outbreak of xenophobic violence. The ANC reportedly fears "a possible outbreak of xenophobic attacks against foreigners after the World Cup." The ANC's national executive committee discussed the issue recently and instructed "its branches to start working on finding out what the problems were in communities and where these threats emanated from." Cele said that "the police and intelligence forces are forever working on the issue. Fears have been raised with us from different

sectors and though we are dealing with that, we have no evidence" He added that where concerns are raised, the police "deploy resources to establish what is going on there and ensure that communities are safe" and that "No such complaints will be taken lightly or ignored."

Expert Commends 'Extremely Impressive' Security Measures -- On 13 June, SAfm radio carried an interview with Dr Johan Burger, a senior researcher on the crime and justice program at the Institute for Security Studies, who discussed the country's security plan. Commenting on this plan, Burger said that there are "huge crime challenges," but the police and related departments have done what was expected and the outcome is "extremely impressive" and that the police has been able to present a "very, very comprehensive security operation." He admitted that the World Cup requirements are putting the police under "tremendous" pressure, but added that they have a plan in place to ensure that they do not neglect ordinary policing. Commenting on the possibility of a terrorist act, Burger said that any event of this size becomes an "attractive target," and added that there is "excellent" cooperation between the South African police and most of the participating countries and their police agencies and the police are working very closely with their intelligence counterparts elsewhere in the world. Discussing hooliganism, Burger said that the police don't have "much experience" in this, but since 2004 have been looking at ways to prevent hooliganism during the event and how to identify hooligans and prevent them from coming into the country.

Durban Trains Guides To Patrol Beaches for Criminals, Traffickers – The Sunday Times reported on 13 June that experts have warned that South Africa will be a "hotspot" for child traffickers who are targeting those vulnerable and open to exploitation. In order to prevent this, Durban has 40 specially trained beach guides patrolling the city's revamped beachfront over the bustling World Cup period. Promise Mtshali, a beach guide, said "We have been trained to protect children on our beaches, especially those who are lost and abandoned. We were educated about human and child trafficking and will try our best to keep the beaches safe for our children." "If we come across a lost child on the beach we attend to him immediately and get help from the authorities," she said.

Budget Backpacking Lodges Fully Booked as Fans Look for Cheaper Options -- On 13 June, Sunday Times reported that budget backpacking lodges are "bursting at the seams," while big hotels have struggled to fill beds for the World Cup. Brett Dungan, head of the Federated Hospitality Association of Southern Africa, said Cape Town's hotel occupancy stood at about 60%, while Johannesburg was "looking very good" and Durban was only at 40% occupancy. Despite this, backpacking lodges, which relied on word-of-mouth and online marketing, said they were sitting pretty. One lodge owner said he was fully booked six months ago and another said that his lodge has been booked out mainly by Australian and German fans. Lodge owners have attributed their success to the fact that they have kept prices low.

Journalists Unharmful After 'Emergency Landing' at Lanseria Airport – SAPA reported on 13 June that a group of Al-Jazeera journalists escaped unharmful when the light aircraft they were traveling in was forced to make an emergency landing at Lanseria Airport in Johannesburg. Lanseria's public relations manager Johan Opperman said "An SAA [South African Airways] Metroliner took off with 13 passengers and two crew on the way to Polokwane" and "after take-off they realized there were problems with the undercarriage. They decided to return to Lanseria." He added that "they flew around for about an hour to get rid of excess fuel and then completed a wheels-up landing" -- where the plane lands on its belly. SA Civil Aviation Authority spokesman Kabelo Ledwaba said the authority is investigating the cause of the emergency landing.

Transport Problems Affecting Attendance -- The 14 June editorial of Johannesburg Times Live said that "ticketing and transport glitches are emerging as major headaches for the organisers of the World Cup as thousands of ticket holders fail to turn up at stadiums." The paper observed that there were "hundreds, if not thousands, of empty seats at Friday's World Cup opener between South Africa and Mexico," and "some officials tried to blame this on companies snapping up block bookings for clients and staff who failed to pitch. This may explain some empty seats, but the level of interest in the opening ceremony and Bafana match couldn't have been higher. A more compelling explanation is that thousands of ticket holders were prevented from reaching the stadium, or arrived late, because of unprecedented traffic snarl."

South Africans Say World Cup 'Killing' Local Businesses -- Voice of the Cape Online reported on 13 June that several Cape Town business owners are "seething" because they claim that business has been slow since the official kick off concert which took place on 10 June. The loss in business is mainly due to the stampede that took place at the FanFest on that day when soccer fans forced their way into the already packed public viewing area. Police have maintained a strong presence in the area. One owner said that when they were initially approached by the organizers of the event they were not told that their business would be negatively impacted. The owners have also accused the police of preventing people from going to the Fanfest.

Police Disperse Stadium Workers (SABC 2, 14 June) Video Shows Police Dispersing Stadium Workers in Durban -- SABC TV 2 reported on 14 June that hundreds of world cup stadium workers who gathered after the game to protest wages clashed with the police who had to fire tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd. One person was injured and two others were arrested.